



Seventh Grade at Westgate Christian Academy



Geography and the Environment

Summary

At the seventh grade level the students study the geography inside and outside of the United States. Students become “student geographic experts” as they systematically learn world geography with the *Mapping the World by Heart* program. They also learn information and facts about the continent and the history of its development.

Concept Statements

1. Geographers study features of the environment and create regions in order to describe the earth
2. Geographers use a variety of tools to “study the earth” for better study including maps, graphs, written records, photographs, etc.
3. The features of the geographic environment affect the patterns of lives of people and the development of culture.
4. God has given man the responsibility for the earth and its care.
5. Man has learned to manipulate the environment for his purposes.
6. The technological advances can have positive and negative consequences relating to the environment.

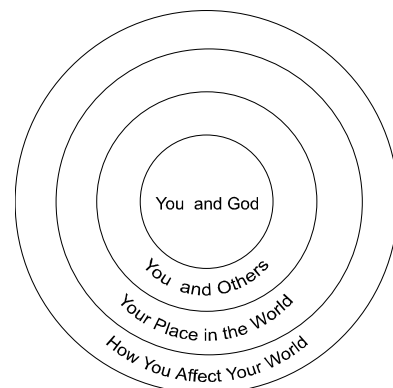
Thematic Units

Thematic Units are organized around a particular theme. For the seventh grade this theme is “Geography and the Environment.” This theme is then infused into all the basic subjects such as reading and science with hands on exploration. This is based on the idea that children learn best in the context of the “whole,” and when they can connect subjects together with the real world. The culminating unit involves a project that links the units studied to the student’s life. In seventh grade, this unit is “Mapping the World in Your Heart.” The thematic units for seventh grade are:

World	Five Themes of Geography	Countries and Capitals of the
	Asia	Africa
	Antarctica	Australia
	North America	South America
	Europe	Mapping the World in Your Heart

The Big Picture

The curriculum can be translated into a visual model that looks like a target. In the center of the target is the child’s relationship with God which is the primary focus. As we move from the center, the child begins to understand how he or she relates to others, how he or she has a place in this world and finally how this world is affected by the child’s actions.



Subject	Curriculum	Projects/Units
History	Geography and the Environment	Five Themes of Geography Countries and Capitals of the World Asia Africa Antarctica Australia North America South America Europe Mapping the World in Your Heart
Geography	Mapping the World by Heart Program	Includes geography of all seven continents
Bible	Developed within History	Isaiah and the Pauline Epistles
Mathematics	Saxon 76 or 87 or Algebra ½ (Placement Testing done at beginning of year)	<i>Numbers and Operations:</i> Includes understanding of absolute value, scientific notation and simplifying complex fractions <i>Patterns, Functions, and Algebra:</i> Includes algebraic formulas and graphing functions and equations <i>Geometry, Spatial Sense, and Measurement:</i> Includes describing concentric circles, identifying slope, calculating measurements for scale drawings, finding the volume of pyramids and cones, and constructing perpendicular lines <i>Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability:</i> Includes determining the probability or chance of an event <i>Representation:</i> Includes graphing points, equations, functions, and inequalities <i>Problem Solving and Reasoning:</i> Includes applying geometric formulas or theorems
Reading	Individual Novel Units	Includes novels such as <i>Evangeline</i> , <i>Call of the Wild</i> , and <i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> . Vocabulary and reading comprehension activities are also utilized during the study of the novels
Writing	Write Source 2000 Level 7	Journal Writing Autobiographical Writing Revising Writing Assessing Writing Study-Reading Skills Editing and Proofreading Expository Essays Business Letters Summaries Research Papers Poetry Persuasive Essays Compiling a Semester Portfolio *Grammar is incorporated into the Writer's Express program
Spelling	Program developed within English	Program uses current vocabulary words and students work with structure of word as well as etymology.
Typing	Mavis Beacon Typing Program	Computer time is utilized for composing papers and building speed.
Science	Prentice Hall	A course involving life, health, and earth science with an emphasis on physical science.